



Only Fair Is Fair.

MDCR/MCRC Enews for March 29, 2012

Guest commentary: An unwelcoming prejudice against gay and transgender people

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/29/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120329/OPINION05/203290411/Guest-commentary-An-unwelcoming-prejudice-against-gay-and-transgender-people?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

I have lived in Rochester Hills for 33 years. I love my city. Like many suburban communities in the Detroit area, our community has been hit hard by a recession that has left a trail of shuttered commercial properties and vacant homes. Although it appears that we may be turning the corner, sheriff sales occur regularly, and talented people leave for opportunities outside of Michigan every day.

Blind and Deaf, Grand Rapids' Bill Barkeley prepares for Boston Marathon

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 3/29/12

http://www.mlive.com/sports/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/03/blind_deaf_grand_rapids_man_pr.html#incart_river_default

GRAND RAPIDS – Bill Barkeley, of Grand Rapids, is setting out to run a marathon, and not just any marathon either, the Boston Marathon.

Michigan father fights age rule for high school sports

From WDIV (Channel 4), 3/28/12

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/Michigan-father-fights-age-rule-for-high-school-sports-/1719418/9742162/-/udubokz/-/index.html>

EAST LANSING – Michigan High School Athletic Association associate director Tom Rashid says the rule that prevents 19-year-old students from playing sports isn't changing unless schools in the state support changing the policy.

Social Justice Commission looks to quiet violence on Muskegon streets

From MLive, 3/28/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2012/03/social_justice_commission_look.html#incart_river_default

MUSKEGON – The mood on the city of Muskegon streets during the past summer-like weather gives law enforcement and community leaders hope for a summer of "safe days and quiet nights."

LAPD officer profiled Latinos in traffic stops, internal probe concludes

From the Los Angeles Times, 3/27/12

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lapd-racial-profile-20120326,0,6544493.story>

Officer Patrick Smith is alleged to have stopped Latino motorists because of their ethnicity and falsified his records to say they were white. A disciplinary panel could vote to dismiss him.

Racially charged note found in Birmingham Seaholm classroom

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/27/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120327/NEWS03/120327018/Birmingham-Seaholm-racially-charged-note?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Almost a year after Seaholm High School dealt with racially charged writings in the school, educators found a note Monday morning with racial overtones in one of the Birmingham school's classrooms.

Former Friend of the Court employee suing supervisor, Bay County for sexual harassment

From MLive, 3/27/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2012/03/former_friend_of_the_court_emp.html#incart_river_default

BAY CITY — A former employee of the Bay County Friend of the Court has filed a lawsuit against Bay County and her former supervisor, alleging years of sexual harassment.

Supreme Court refuses domestic partner benefits challenge

From Michigan Public Radio, 3/24/12

<http://michiganradio.org/post/supreme-court-refuses-domestic-partner-benefits-challenge>

The Michigan Supreme Court will not hear a challenge to benefits that cover the live-in partners of state employees. That ruling means the challenge will have to go first to the state Court of Appeals. This is the newest wrinkle in the legal and political drama playing out over allowing benefits that cover public employees' unmarried partners, including people in same-sex relationships.

Where is the community outrage over black doll hanging incident in an Ann Arbor schoolyard?

From AnnArbor.com/MLive, 3/24/12

http://annarbor.com/news/opinion/where-is-the-community-outrage-over-black-doll-hanging-incident-in-an-ann-arbor-schoolyard/?cmpid=mlive-@aa-river#incart_river_default

Someone wrapped a chain around the neck of a black doll, tossed it into a tree and left it hanging, to be discovered by elementary-school-aged children, and I am told I should not be concerned.

Detroit man convicted of human trafficking

From the Detroit News, 3/23/12

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120323/METRO01/203230457/1409/metro/Detroit-man-convicted-human-trafficking>

A 33-year-old Detroit man has become the first person convicted under Michigan's human trafficking law for forcing two teens into prostitution in the city, Attorney General Bill Schuette announced Friday.

FedEx to pay \$3 M to settle hiring discrimination charges

From the Huffington Post, 3/23/12

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/22/fedex-discrimination-settlement_n_1372487.html

WASHINGTON – Shipping giant FedEx has agreed to pay \$3 million to settle federal charges that the company had a widespread pattern of discriminating against job applicants, the Labor Department announced Thursday.

Arbitrator who awarded Kalamazoo detective his job back concluded evidence that led to his firing was embellished, manufactured

from MLive, 3/22/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/03/arbitrator_who_awarded_kalamaz.html#incart_river_default

KALAMAZOO – In awarding [former Kalamazoo Public Safety Detective Matthew Schultz his job back](#) last year, an arbitrator blasted the department and concluded that some in the agency sought to embellish, “if not outright manufacture evidence” that led to Schultz’s termination.

The Costly Business of Discrimination

From the Center for American Progress, 3/22/12

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/03/lgbt_discrim.html

There's a price to be paid for workplace discrimination—\$64 billion. That amount represents the annual estimated cost of losing and replacing more than 2 million American workers who leave their jobs each year due to unfairness and discrimination.

After decades of trying with little success, law firms unveil new plan to recruit minorities and females

From MLive, 3/22/12

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/03/after_decades_with_little_succ.html#incart_river_default

GRAND RAPIDS – There are not enough persons of color and women working in West Michigan's legal community, according to the managing partners of 13 of the area's largest law firms.

Warren Opens New Effort To Extend Civil Rights Law To L.B.G.T. Community

From Gongwer, 3/22/12 (no link available)

It remains legal in Michigan to deny someone housing or terminate employment because he or she is gay or transgendered, and Sen. Rebekah Warren announced Thursday she is introducing legislation to end that omission in the state's civil rights law.

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, enacted in 1976, protects residents from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of race, sex, religion and national origin. Ms. Warren said her bill would extend those same protections to people who are gay or transgendered.

It is stunning that Michigan still allows people to be fired or evicted based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, Ms. Warren (D-Ann Arbor) said.

"People just simply do not believe this is the case," she said of public reaction to existing Michigan law. "This is something we need to fix."

Yet the proposal, which Ms. Warren introduced in the 2009-10 term as a member of the House, has always run into opposition from lawmakers either genuinely opposed to the idea or afraid of the political consequences of antagonizing social conservative organizations.

Ms. Warren said she thought public opinion was changing and that would help her cause. Last term, in the Democrat-led House, the bill won committee approval, but died on the floor.

Peter Hammer, director of Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University, and Ms. Warren said Michigan's law hurts the state economically, especially when it is compounded by the state's ban on same-sex

marriage, civil unions and extension of health benefits by public employers to the same-sex partners of their employees.

"Discrimination is bad for business, and that's something that should influence everybody's choices," said Mr. Hammer, who added he was once fired for being gay. "Michigan is quickly becoming the Mississippi of LBGT civil rights."

ACLU Urges State Police to Investigate Racial Profiling Incident

From the ACLU, 3/21/12

<http://www.aclumich.org/issues/racial-justice/2012-03/1685>

GRAND RAPIDS – In a letter today, the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan urged the Michigan State Police (MSP) to investigate a racial profiling incident in which an officer illegally detained a United States citizen and turned him over to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) because of his appearance and language skills. The Grand Rapids resident had his car impounded and was handcuffed until CBP officers arrived even though he produced a valid license and repeatedly insisted he was a citizen.

Civil rights probe opens in Florida death

From the Detroit News, 3/20/12

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120320/NATION/203200361/Civil-rights-probe-opens-Florida-death?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Orlando, Fla. — Federal officials have opened a civil rights investigation into the shooting death of a black teenager killed by a community watch member in Florida, according to a Justice Department statement.

Bangor Township man may avoid jail in ethnic intimidation case if he writes Muslim culture report

From MLive, 3/19/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2012/03/bangor_township_man_to_write_r.html#incart_river_default

BAY CITY — A Bangor Township man who police said yelled racial slurs outside a Bay City bar has accepted a plea deal, and he may avoid jail if he writes a convincing report on Muslims' cultural contributions.

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade urges prosecution of LBGT, HIV-related discrimination crimes

From MLive, 3/15/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/03/us_attorney_barbara_mcquade_ur.html#incart_river_default

Beyond race- or gender-related offenses, discrimination by other identifiers happens often, but is rarely reported.

Portage furniture store owner says woman fired for poor performance, not for requesting day off for Muslim holy day

From MLive, 3/14/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/03/in_answer_to_discrimination_su.html#incart_river_default

PORTAGE – The attorney for a Portage furniture store owner accused in a federal lawsuit of [firing a woman after she asked for a day off on a Muslim holy day](#) says the termination stemmed from poor work performance and not the woman's religion, court documents show.

A Rejection of Discrimination

From the New York Times, 3/12/12

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/13/opinion/a-rejection-of-discrimination.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20120313

The courts did the right thing by blocking voter ID laws in Texas and Wisconsin that aim to keep people from the polls.

Gov. Rick Snyder woos Chinese to boost Michigan business

From the Detroit News, 3/12/12

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120312/BIZ/203120337/Gov-Rick-Snyder-woos-Chinese-boost-Michigan-business?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

The conflict between politicians and business leaders over Chinese investment in Michigan is increasing during this election season, but Gov. Rick Snyder is determined to court Chinese investors and win more business.

Hate crime frightens former Detroit couple, even after tormentor's conviction

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/12/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120312/NEWS06/203120350/Hate-crime-frightens-former-Detroit-couple-even-after-tormentor-s-conviction?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Inside the mailbox outside their Detroit home, a noose was tucked in an envelope.

White House conference in Detroit focuses on homelessness in the LGBT community

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/8/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120309/NEWS01/120309025/White-House-conference-Detroit-focuses-homelessness-LGBT-community?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

More than 100 people gathered today at Wayne State University for a White House conference on homelessness for the LGBT community -- just days after a federal housing rule was implemented to prevent housing discrimination against lesbians and gays.

Restaurant employee who denied entry to a service dog can avoid criminal prosecution through community service

From MLive, 3/8/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/03/restaurant_employee_who_denied.html

GRAND RAPIDS – As long as Nataly Bucio keeps on the right side of the law, she will not face any criminal record or penalties stemming from her telling a man with a service dog that the animal would not be allowed in the restaurant where she worked.

TLC not bringing All American Muslim back for second season

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/7/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120307/ENT03/120307023/All-American-Muslim-canceled?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

All-American Muslim, the TLC reality-TV show based in Dearborn that ignited a national controversy, has been canceled and will not be back for a second season.

Bay City to revisit zoning language that would have discriminated against people with disabilities

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 3/7/12

http://videos.mlive.com/bctimes/2012/03/video_bay_city_to_revisit_zoni.html

At Michigan universities, enrollment of Chinese students is soaring

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/6/12

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120306/NEWS06/203060406/At-Michigan-universities-enrollment-of-Chinese-students-is-soaring?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

The number of Chinese students enrolling at Michigan State University has soared by more than 400% during the last four years, mirroring a national trend that experts say is attributed to increasing personal wealth and limited higher education opportunities in China.

Big Reds and Native American symbols: Should Milan eliminate them?

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 2/29/12

<http://annarbor.com/news/big-reds-and-native-american-symbols-should-milan-eliminate-them/?cmpid=mlive>

The Milan school board is once again wrestling with the issue of Native American symbols and imagery associated with Big Reds, the name of its sports teams.

Iraq War veteran with service dog asked to leave Jackson bar; owner didn't know the law

From MLive, 2/28/12

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/02/man_with_service_dog_asked_to.html

JACKSON — A Jackson bar owner apparently broke the law recently when he refused to serve an Iraq war veteran who brought his service dog into the bar.